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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

# MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 222.



SEPTEMBER, 1961

### August Employment At Near Record

Volume of non-farm employment in Montana approached the record set in August, 1956. Employment estimates in the Bureau of Labor Statistics series compiled jointly with the Commission showed 178,700 workers receiving pay checks from the state's non-farm employers at mid August. Highest monthly employment of record was in August, 1956 with 179,800 wage earners. Average August employment of the past ten years figures at 172,600. Employment was up 1,900 from July and 2,400 from August of last year. Much of this employment expansion, both from last month and last year, had no special economic significance. It resulted chiefly from temporary workers engaged in forest fire control this August.

There were no major employment declines from July to August this year. Every major industrial group either held at July employment levels or showed some gain. Employment in manufacturing industries was up 300 from July with all of the gain in lumber and timber products. Construction payrolls, which built up heavily during the summer season, advanced by 100 workers. Service industries recorded the largest gain with 1,400, mostly firefighters. Statewide employment totals in mining; transportation and utilities; trade; and finance, insurance, and real estate establishments remained the same as in July.

Over-the-year comparisons from August, 1960, to August, 1961, revealed employment advances in four major industry groups and declines in four others. Construction payrolls were up 2,600 from a year ago sparked chiefly by missile base activity in the Great Falls-Lewistown area. Other gains were in

### Five Months Experience Under New UCC Law Shows Some Early Trends In Benefit Claims

Some 1961 legislative amendments to the Montana Unemployment Compensation Law were for the specific purpose of eliminating the "marginal" or part-time workers from the receipt of benefits. How well sections of the 1961 law pertaining to this subject have worked during the past five months are shown in the following tables. They compare determinations of new unemployment compensation claims filed from April 1, 1961 (effective date of the new law) through August 31, 1961 with the same period a year ago.

April 1, 1961-Aug. 31, 1961 April 1, 1960-Aug. 31, 1960 Monetary determination of new claims filed under the 1959 UCC Law. Monetary determination of new claims filed under the new UCC Law. (variable duration: 13, 20, 26 wks) (uniform duration: 22 wks.) Total number of monetary de-Total number of monetary de-terminations of new UCC terminations of new UCC 100.0 100.0 claims . 7.224 Eligible-sufficient wage Eligible-sufficient wage credits \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ineligible—insufficient wage 79.2 6,105 93.7 6,768 20.8 credits . credits .... 6.3

The following table shows duration of benefits of the 6,105 eligible claimants and the number entitled to maximum weekly benefit amount of \$34.00 from April 1, 1961 through August 31, 1961:

		%		
Total eligible claimants	6,105	100.0	Number eligible for \$34.00	3,467
Benefit duration of 13 weeks	1,341	22.0	Benefit duration, 13 weeks	576
Benefit duration if 20 weeks	1,539	25.2	Benefit duration of 20 wks	750
Benefit duration of 26 weeks	3,225	52.8	Benefit duration of 26 weeks	2,141
337 1.3 . 1			6 616 00 . 1 .11 1 1 1 11	

Weekly benefit amounts start at a minimum of \$15.00 and climb by dollar amounts to a maximum of \$34.00, depending upon the wages earned by a claimant in his base period. To qualify for both the maximum weekly benefit amount of \$34.00 and maximum duration of 26 weeks, a claimant must have minimum qualifying wages of \$1,282.50, \$855 or more as high quarter wages and wages of \$100 or more in each of three quarters in his base period other than the quarter in which his wages were highest.

the service industries, up 1,100; government, up 900; and finance, insurance, and real estate, up 100. Employment declines were

found in mining, down 800; trade industries, down 700; manufacturing, and transportation and utilities, down 400 each.

# LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATE							SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff			
1110001111	1) Jul 1961	2) Jun 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	
3) All Manufacturing	4.6	6.2 7.6 4.0 3.5	3.9 4.5 3.9 2.6	2.6 2.9 1.1 2.1	5.3 6.5 2.3 2.9	2.6 3.2 1.7 1.6	3.4 4.0 2.6 2.2	3.1 3.1 2.3 3.3	5.5 6.2 7.5 4.0	1.2 1.3 .8 1.2	1.6 1.6 .6 1.5	2.1 2.1 1.3 2.0	1.1 1.3 .5 .7	.6 .6 .4 .8	2.6 3.1 5.5 1.6	
All Mining Metal Mining	7.3 7.9	9.2 6.6	7.7 ( 7.5	2.6 1.1	3.1 1.0	3.1 1.2	4.9 3.6	4.7	6.3 8.2	1.9 1.5	1.9 1.5	3.9 5.2	1.4	1.3	1.1	

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time.
 Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
 Excludes sugar and canning industries.
 Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

# Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Sept. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(297 jobscekers, 108 new, 146 men, 151 women). Over-all economic conditions fairly quiet in most major industries. Few worker callbacks noted weekly at Anaconda smelter operations with total employment at about 2,150. Practically no hiring in trade circles due to prolonged strike of sales clerks in dry goods stores. Local labor supply adequate to meet job demands.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,337 jobseekers, 851 new, 1,623 men, 714 women). Job hires up substantially from last year due to good levels of economic activity in most major industries. Temporary placement of firefighters inflated job totals to some extent. New building construction and remodeling projects at good pace, but not of sufficient volume to absorb all unemployed craftsmen. Activity at Yellowtail Dam project chiefly in shape of road building and preliminary tunnel work; about 250 employed by prime contractor with total expected to reach 400 at year's end. Glazier's union dispute settled, but strike of teamsters against wholesale establishment current, idling 31. Decline in farm hiring laid chiefly to earlier drought conditions. Sweet corn harvest completed; harvest and processing of sugar beets next on schedule with field work mostly mechanized.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(413 jobseekers, 223 new, 313 men, 100 women). Heavy construction agenda in building and highway projects obscured downtrends in other industries. Cement plant at Trident operating at half capacity due to reduced market demand. Three Forks tale processing plant on one shift basis, employing 15. New building projects include \$600,000 school and \$1,000,000 retirement home. Logging and lumber maintains fairly stable trends. Trade and service volume continues good despite fading tourist traffic.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,197 jobseekers, 233 new, 704 men, 493 women). Hiring in mining operations slowed somewhat by closure of one mine and transfer of workers to other operating units. Some non-production workers were idled including mine watchmen. Construction activity practically nil with completion of interstate highway overpasses and bridges. Reconstruction of fire damaged city library is main building project in progress at present. Trade and service volume fairly stable, but with very little new hiring. Farm labor demand diminished with completion of haying, but upcoming potato harvest should provide new job openings.

CUT BANK—(222 jobseckers, 110 new, 191 men, 31 women). Labor demands in

### LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	Aug. 1961	July 1961	Aug. 1960	Aug. Avg. 1952-61
Industrial Employment	178,700	176,800	176,300	172,600
New Job Applicants	3,731 9,759	3,982 11,725	4,706	3,443
Job Applicants, End of Month	9,739	11,723	7,939	5,259
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Sept. 1 1961	Aug. 4 1961	Sept. 2 1960	Avg. 1st Sept. Wk. 1957-61
New and Renewal Claims	602	619	758	759
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,902	3,374	3,265	3,309
Total Unemployment Claims	3,504	3,993	4,023	4,068

construction, trade, and forest service highlighted August labor market scene. Some were temporary jobs for forest fire control. No new construction starts planned this late in season. Main street hiring up with start of school term and fall buying season.

DILLON—(91 jobseekers, 106 new, 56 men, 35 women). Fall hiring patterns showed good trends in both industry and agriculture. Local labor supply adequate to meet all demands. Work on several highway projects, bridges, and relocation of railroad tracks at Clark Canyon Dam site making good progress. Trade and service establishments maintaining good volume.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(317 jobseekers, 107 new, 173 men, 144 women). Most skilled workers absorbed on construction projects during the month including air base housing, highway project, and new super market. Surplus of unskilled workers still idle with many leaving area to seek work. Volume in trade units up slightly, but still below normal. Farm labor picture not too optimistic because of extended drought conditions.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(109 jobseekers, 61 new, 73 men, 36 women). Job hiring down from last month due chiefly to reduced activity in construction and oil field work. No new construction starts planned with possible exception of new courthouse. Farm hiring down sharply because of crop damage caused by drought and grasshoppers. Soil bank farmers moving into town increasing unemployment rolls.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,410 jobseekers, 572 new, 753 men, 657 women). Worker demand in trade and service industries was at the forefront of labor market activity during August. Construction payrolls, which built up earlier in the season remained steady with some hiring. About 2,000 workers employed at missile base sites after a few layoffs as work schedules were met. Moderate declines noted from last year in home and industrial building projects. New hires at smelter operations chiefly as replacements for workers reaching retirement age. Small grain crop yields half of last year's volume.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(135 jobscekers, 52 new, 66 men, 69 women). August labor demand chiefly for firefighters and fruit orchard workers. About 1 million cans of cherries processed after heaviest cherry crop in years. Berry picking, haying, and grain harvest provided other good employment opportunities. Potato harvest to begin late September.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(217 jobseekers, 93 new, 149 men, 68 women). Unemployment totals starting to rise with best employment months past. Job opportunities below last year in most industries including construction, railroads, and trade and service. Student housing project at Northern Montana College only major construction project in sight. Winter employment outlook in both industry and agriculture appears dismal at this time.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(445 jobseekers, 157 new, 281 men, 164 women). Heavy surplus of unskilled and younger workers reduced substantially by calls for firefighters during August. Normal labor demand was chiefly for clerical and service workers with shortages evident in these clessifications. Trade volume up with back-to-school buying. Construction activity slowed somewhat, but still remains an active economic force.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(833 jobseekers, 202 new, 586 men, 247 women). Employment reached toward peak levels in most industries during August. Demand for lumbr and sawmill workers, firefighters, and service industry personnel persisted throughout the month. September hiring trends expected to be less active with exception of increased activity in agriculture as potato harvest begins.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(145 jobseckers, 86 new, 93 men, 52 women). Drought conditions kept grain crop yields 50 percent under last year and substantially reduced farm labor demand. Sales of livestock especially heavy due to water and range feed shortages. Other industry segments more active than year ago due chiefly to missile site construction in area.

### NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)\*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1953	147.1	145.9	147.9	151.5	155.2	161.0	162.2	164.1	163,2	162.2	159,9	157.9	156.5
1954		147.6	149,4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955		149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956		154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170,4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	155.1	150.3 153.2	150.5 155.9	156.4 162.2	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1960		152.5	156.1	163.4	167.5 167.9	174.0 175.2	177.5 176.3	179.2 176.3	169.9 174.8	165.6 171.5	161.5	159.4	165.1
1961	160.9	159.8	160.2	163.1	166.8	175.3	176.8	178.7*	174.0	171.3	168.0	165.2	166.6

<sup>\*</sup> Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. \*\*Preliminary Estimate.

# Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Sept. 1

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(161 jobseekers, 102 new, 98 men, 63 women). Active labor market aspects included interstate highway construction, good trends in lumber and logging, and trade and service industries. Shortages of cooks and waitresses persisted throughout the end of the month. Railroad hiring chiefly for journeymen electricians and machinists with little demand for other workers. Layoff of seasonal workers by national park service begins mid September.

MILES C1TY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(92 jobseckers, 87 new, 58 men, 34 women). Job hires exceeded year ago totals, sparked by increased building and road construction. Some building projects completed during the month and others delayed by material shortages. Main street business holding at good levels despite reduced purchasing power of farm families hit by drought. Farm hiring at minimum.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(715 jobseekers, 282 new, 390 men, 325 women). Good hiring trends in manufacturing and trade and service industries outweighed declines in construction and logging. Contract construction limited to one shopping center, home building, and minor remodeling projects. Nearly 2,000 men were recruited and placed on forest fires during August. Over-all economic picture generally optimistic in both industry and agriculture.

POLSON—(101 jobseekers, 49 new, 67 men, 34 women). Labor market trends keeping fairly well to normal seasonal patterns. Construction activity considerably below last year with most building projects complete. Farm labor demand reduced by poor hay crops.

SHELBY—(170 jobseekers, 128 new, 125 men, 45 women). Trade and service industries provided most job openings during August. Construction employment totals substantially below last year. Some workers employed in Cut Bank area on pipeline construction. Farm labor demand down.

SIDNEY—(113 jobseekers, 42 new, 69 men, 44 women). Upswing in trade and service hiring overshadowed weakening totals in construction and other industry segments. Home building, small clinic building, and remodeling projects chief shape of construction activity. Some farm equipment firms separating temporary personnel and non-productive workers. Lagging farm labor demand expected to pick up with start of sugar beet harvest.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(89 jobseekers, 35 new, 61 men, 28 women). Lumber industry provided most August job openings, both for sawmill workers and logging crews. Most mills operating at capacity and some reopened after temporary shut-downs. So me construction projects nearing completion including Hot Springs post office, Noxon school, and road projects. Main street business good with demand for sales clerks and waitresses.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey--(150 jobseekers, 45 new, 118 men, 32 women). Employment in construction and oil fields holding up fairly well, but declines noted in trade and service industries with end of tourist season. Worker layoffs expected in construction next month as some projects reach completion. Farm labor demand at low ebb.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EM	PLOYME	NT	Net C	hange
INDUSTRY	Aug. 1961 (2)	July 1961 (3)	Aug. 1960	July '61 to Aug. '61	20
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	178,700	176,800	176,300	1,900	2,400
Manufacturing	21,000	20,700	21,400	300	<del>-</del> 400
Durable goods	13,700	13,300	13,900	400	200
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	8,300 3,600 1,800	3,600	8,000 4,200 1,700	00	<del>-</del> 600
Nondurable goods	7,300	7,400	7,500	100	200
Food and kindred productsPrinting and publishingPetroleum refiningOther (5)	4,300 1,500 9 <b>00</b> 600	1,600 900	4,300 1,600 900 700	— 100 00	- 100 00
Mining	7,100 4,100 800 2,200	4,100 800	<b>7,900</b> 5,000 700 2,200	00	
Contract Construction	16,800 5,700 6,000 5,100		14,200 5,800 3,800 4,600	300 100	- 2,600 - 100 2,200 500
Transportation and utilities	19,400 8,900 4,300 6,200	8,900 4,300	19,800 9,600 4,100 6,100	00	
Trade  Wholesale trade	42,000 8,600 33,400 6,000 5,100 9,100 6,500 6,700	8,600 <b>33,400</b> 6,000 5,300 8,900 6,500	42,700 8,800 33,900 6,300 5,000 9,100 6,900 6,600	- 200 200 00 200 00	200 500
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	6,800	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	25,400 3,900 2,200 19,300	24,000 3,700 2,200 18,100	24,300 4,000 2,300 18,000	1,400 200 00 1,200	- 1,100 - 100 - 100 1,300
Government Federal. State and local.	40,100 11,900 28,200	<b>40,000</b> 12,100 27,900	39,200 10,800 28,400	- 100 - 200 300	900 1,100 — 200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)  Manufacturing  Contract construction  Transportation and utilities  Trade, wholesale and retail.  Services and miscellaneous (7)  Government	24,300 3,000 4,700 2,100 6,000 5,000 3,500	24,500 3,200 4,900 2,100 6,000 4,900 3,400	21,800 3,200 2,600 2,100 5,800 4,800 3,300	- 200 - 200 - 200 00 00 100 100	2,500 200 2,100 00 200 200 200 200

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 779 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,367 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicais, and miscelianeous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

### COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUG. 1961 AND AUG. 1960

Employment	Nev	w Job	Applica	ants	Jo	bseeke	rs in I	File		Job Placement							UI CI	aims*
Service	Aug.	1961	Aug.	1960	Aug	1961	1   Aug. 1960		Aug. 1961				Aug. 1960				Wk. 9-1	
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1961	1960
	100	1.3	0.3	1.4	1 307	20	100	20	2/5	70	0.5		1				1 4	
Anaconda	108 851	12	82	14	297	39	196	28	347	20	367	111		53		11	155	
Billings		208	636	147	2,337	416		215	706			342	549	1,420		252	705	687
Bozeman	223	43	254	55	413	93	211	35	170			56	235	132		93	91	31
Butte	233	56	380	87	1,197	229	1,247	293	953	27	980	215	107	77	184	52	537	571
Cut Bank	110	40	179	65	222	32	120	19	222	73	295	117	47	111	158	32	39	70
Dillon	106		124	48	91	18	87	23	46	205		127	59	240		145	25	61
Glasgow	107	16	145	44	317	46	168	25	104		138	43	222	450	672	82	140	88
Glendive	61	12	160	47	109	20	144	23	71	114	185	15	138	291	429	39	45	6
Great Falls	572	112	660	170	1,410	249	1,115	235	730	183		342	622	1,217	1,839	320	457	520
Hamilton	52	8	98	18	135	22	204	37	1,198	546	1,744	232	52	165	217	26	45	123
Havre	93	13	73	9	217	30	151	18	110	70	180	53	144	424	568	225	100	122
Helena	157	32	202	38	445	116	332	85	280	69	349	153	340	98	438	170	182	192
Kalispell	202	42	329	72	833	215	781	196	770	53	823	207	240	27	267	45	251	463
Lewistown	86	26	81	22	145	35	118	20	232	41	273	101	106	403		154	66	63
Livingston	102	21	166	39	161	25	234	47	142	49	191	72	209	57	266	73	49	62
Miles City	87	14	79	15	92	10	65	11	119	354	473	50	112	366		46	74	53
Missoula	282	41	400	87	715	141	731	154	2,150		2,203	707	325	134	459		245	426
Polson	49	9	67	9	101	23	198	39	83	695	778	243	403	785	1,188	323	69	152
Shelby	128	45	311	120	170	33	205	82	70	111	181	39	122	159		87	56	64
Sidney	42	8	80	23	113	18	78	17	121	34	155	31	113	58	171	67	33	2
Thomp. Falls	35	9	58	16	89	20	117	19	45		45	15	47	3	50	12	52	82
Wolf Point	45	8	142	39	150	34	136	39	27	32	59	14	42	147	189		88	59 59
			استند	1			1001			- 52	37		72	17/	109	29	001	39
TOTALS	3,731	812	4,706	1,184	9,759	1,864	7,939	1,660	8,696	4,005	12,701	3,285	4,268	6,817	11,085	2,448	3,504	4,023

<sup>\*</sup>Includes 84 claims of the Fed. UC Program 87 same a year ago. 1,286 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

### AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly l	Earnings	Averag	ge Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	Aug. (1) 1961	July (2) 1961	Aug. 1960	Aug. (1) 1961	July (2) 1961	Aug. 1960	Aug. (1) 1961	July (2) 1961	Aug. 1960	
All Manufacturing	\$ 94.82	\$ 97.61	\$ 97.36	38.7	39.2	39.9	2.45	2.49	2.44	
Durable goods	96.71 101.53	95.84 101.53	94.95 90.64	39.8 39.2	38.8 39.2	39.4 36.4	2.43 2.59	2.47 2.59	2.41 2.49	
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	98.80 86.86	101.75 89.38	102.75 91.19	40.0 43.0	40.7 43.6	41.6 44.7	2.47 2.02	2.50 2.05	2.47 2.04	
All Mining	110.30	109.34	104.28	40.7	40.2	39.8	2.71	2.72	2.62	
Metal mining	107.59	107.59	103.09	39.7	   39.7	37.9	2.71	2.71	2.72	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	99.08	97.14	100.30							
Transportation (except railroads)	106.15 94.72	101.62 94.72	112.27	39.8	39.8	39.1	2.38	2.38	2.36	

<sup>(1)</sup> Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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